

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A single vessel containing N-hydroxysuccinimide ~~N-hydroxysuccinimide~~ (NHS), a water-soluble carbodiimide and a label containing an amine or a carboxyl moiety, these components being in a single vessel in dry form suitable for rehydration at pH about 7.
2. *(Cancelled)*
3. *(Cancelled)*
4. *(Cancelled)*
5. *(Cancelled)*
6. *(Cancelled)*
7. *(Previously Presented)* A single vessel containing a label derivatized with one functionality of a heterofunctional reagent and means for activating the unreacted functionality of the heterofunctional reagent or its reaction partner, these components being in a single vessel in dry form suitable for rehydration.
8. *(Cancelled)*
9. *(Previously Presented)* A method of conjugating label to target moiety, comprising:
 - a. derivatizing a label containing primary or secondary amines with a heterobifunctional reagent having a maleimide functionality;
 - b. placing maleimide derivatized label in a container with a reductant in dry form;
 - c. hydrating label and reductant; and
 - d. removing reductant in the presence of a target moiety, whereby the target moiety is conjugated to the label.
10. *(Cancelled)*
11. *(Cancelled)*

12. *(Cancelled)*
13. *(Previously Presented)* A method for conjugating label to target moiety comprising:
 - a. placing a label, NHS, and a carbodiimide in a container such that the three components are sequestered from reaction with each other;
 - b. storing the components in dry form; and
 - c. hydrating the components to initiate reaction between them,
wherein a target is added at the time the components are hydrated and
the target is subsequently conjugated to the label.
14. *(Previously Presented)* A method for conjugating label to target moiety comprising:
 - a. placing a label, NHS, and a carbodiimide in a container such that the three components are sequestered from reaction with each other;
 - b. storing the components in dry form; and
 - c. hydrating the components to initiate reaction between them,
wherein a target is added subsequent to hydrating the components and
the target is conjugated to the label.